

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /082 W

-----090606Z 008521 /22

O 090520Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8034

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL UDORN IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR PINT PROP LA TH

SUBJECT: LAO FOREIGN MINISTRY DENOUNCES THAI GOVERNMENT IN
CONNECTION WITH DON CHING CHU ISLAND AFFAIR

SUMMARY: LAO VICE FOREIGN MINISTER SUMMONED DIPLOMATIC
CORPS TO HEAR DENUNCIATION OF THAI PRESS AND RADIO
COMMENTS ON LAO INTERNAL SITUATION AND LAO ACCUSATION
OF THAI COMPLICITY IN LAO REBEL OCCUPATION OF ISLAND
IN MEKONG. END SUMMARY.

1. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER NOUPHAN SITHPASAY SUMMONED
VIENTIANE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AT 1000 HOURS SATURDAY,
APRIL 9 TO PRESENT LAO POSITION ON THAI PRESS AND
RADIO COMMENTS ON CURRENT SITUATION IN LAOS AND ON
DONG CHING CHU ISLAND AFFAIR.

2. NOUPHAN SAID LPDR WOULD HAVE NO COMMENT ON THAI
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PRESS AND RADIO CHARGES THAT GOVERNMENT MINISTERS HAD
BEEN ARRESTED OR REQUESTED ASYLUM IN FOREIGN EMBASSIES
BECAUSE EVERYONE KNEW THAT THE THAI RADIO AND PRESS
WERE WELL KNOWN IN THE WORLD AS PROPAGANDA SPECIALISTS.
THEREFORE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SAW NO NEED TO COMMENT.

3. HE SAID THAT ON MARCH 29 ARMED LAO TRAITORS

OCCUPIED DONG CHING CHU ISLAND LESS THAN 10 KILOMETERS WEST OF VIENTIANE IN THE MEKONG RIVER. THIS ISLAND IS LAO TERRITORY NEAR THE THAI BANK. THE TRAITORS ROBBED PEOPLE WHO LIVED THERE AND WERE STILL IN OCCUPATION OF THE ISLAND, HARASSING AND MISTREATING THE REMAINING POPULATION.

4. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED WITH THE AID OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THE ISLAND WAS CLOSE TO THAILAND AND THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAD PROVIDED FOOD AND ARMS AND AMMUNITION TO THE REBELS. THE THAI PRESS AND RADIO HAD MADE A BIG STORY OUT OF THE INCIDENT AND WERE HAPPY ABOUT IT. THEY WERE TREATING IT AS A GOOD DEVELOPMENT FROM THE THAI POINT OF VIEW. LPDR CONSIDERED THIS EVENT A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE LAO COUNTRY AND PEOPLE AND A DANGER TO LAO-THAI RELATIONS. IT SHOWED THAT THE RTG PERSISTED IN ENDANGERING GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. FOR THEIR PART THE LAO STILL WANTED TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS.

5. AT THE SAME TIME LPDR HAD TO SAFEGUARD PEACE AND SECURITY OF ITS COUNTRY AND OF THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. LPDR CONSIDERED SAFEGUARDING PEACE AND SECURITY OF LAO PEOPLE AS ITS FIRST DUTY. IT CONSIDERED SETTLEMENT OF DONG CHING CHU AFFAIR AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY. IT CONSIDERED THE SETTLEMENT OF THIS AFFAIRS AN INTERNAL LAO MATTER INTO WHICH THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAD NO RIGHT TO MIX.

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6. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD CALLED IN THAI CHARGE D'AFFAIRES APRIL 9 AND HANDED HIM A NOTE STATING THE LPDR POSITION AND MAKING CERTAIN PROPOSALS. THEY HAD ASKED THAI CHARGE TO CONTACT HIS GOVERNMENT BY TELEPHONE AND REQUEST A REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

7. LPDR POSITION WAS THAT THE MATTER WAS UNDER THE SOLE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LAOS AND THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAD NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE. THE LAO GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A) RTG SHOULD TAKE MEASURES TO KEEP LAO REBELS ON ISLAND FROM FLEEING INTO THAI TERRITORY;

B) RTG SHOULD ARREST ANY LAO REBELS WHO MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM ISLAND INTO THAI TERRITORY AND RETURN THEM TO LPDR;

C) IF RTG WISHED TO MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP GOOD RELATIONS WITH LAOS AND TO PROVE IT WAS NOT MIXED UP IN THE DON CHING CHU AFFAIR, IT WOULD BE NORMAL AND LOGICAL FOR IT TO ACCEPT LAO PROPOSALS.

8. LPDR WANTED TO PRESERVE PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE FRONTIER AREA. EVEN IN THE PAST IT HAD DONE NOTHING TO THREATEN THAT SECURITY. UNFORTUNATELY, THAI HAD NOT BEHAVED IN THE SAME WAY.

9. LPDR HOPED REPRESENTATIVES OF FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS AND WORLD PUBLIC OPINION WOULD UNDERSTAND THIS QUESTION AND AID IN REESTABLISHMENT OF SITUATION ON DONG CHING CHU ISLAND AND PRESERVATION OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN LAOS AND THAILAND.

10. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOUPHAN SAID LPDR DID NOT KNOW HOW MANY REBLES WERE IN THE ISLAND ALTHOUGH THE THAI PRESS CITED MANY HUNDREDS. TOBACCO AND BANANA FARMERS WHO HAD FLED ISLAND SIMPLY SAID REBELS HAD OCCUPIED IT AND WERE MISTREATING REMAINING POPULATION. INDIAN AMBASSADOR ASKED WHAT KIND OF HELP THAI WERE GIVING REBELS AND DID IT INCLUDE THAI PERSONNEL. INDIAN ALSO ASKED IF LPDR HAD REQUESTED RTG TO ARREST RBELS ONLY IF THEY ESCAPED TO THAILAND OR TO ARREST THEM ON THE ISLAND. NOUPHAN REPLIED HE HAD ALREADY STATED THAI AID CONSISTED OF ARMS, AMMUNITION AND FOOD AND THAT HE HAD NEITHER AFFIRMED NOR DENIED PRESENCE OF THAI PERSONNEL. HE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE ISLAND WAS LAO TERRITORY LPDR WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT REQUEST THAI TO TAKE ANY ACTION THERE.

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Subject: LAO FOREIGN MINISTRY DENOUNCES THAI GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH DON CHING CHU ISLAND AFFAIR SUMMARY:
LAO VICE FOREIGN MINISTER SUMMONED DIPLOM
TAGS: PBOR, PINT, PROP, LA, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b555bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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